

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OSLO 02125 281317Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-07 CG-00 DOTE-00 NSF-01 CIAE-00
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C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 2125

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: XQ, SV, NO, TGEN
SUBJECT: AFTER NANSEN DRIFT DECISION

REF: OSLO 2021

1. WE ARE NOW ARRANGING A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FIVE 1978
US PROJECTS ON SVALBARD. WE HAVE ALSO ARRANGED PRESS GUIDANCE FOR THE
EXPECTED QUESTIONS ON THE STATUS OF THE NANSEN PROJECT.

2. THE FOREIGN MINISTER, IN HIS APRIL 21 CONVERSATION WITH ME,
ACCEPTED THE SHELVEING OF THE NANSEN PROJECT WITH GOOD GRACE.
THERE IS NO DOUBT, HOWEVER, THAT HE WAS DEEPLY DISAPPOINTED. HE
HAD ASSUMED THAT THE MATTER WAS GOING FORWARD IN WASHINGTON AND HAD,
IN HIS NEW YEAR INTERVIEW, STATED THAT THE PROJECT WAS STILL UNDER
CONSIDERATION AND WOULD INVOLVE A US PRESENCE ON SVALBARD.

3. I BELIEVE THAT ALTERNATIVE PROJECT, INVOLVING A SUSTAINED
US PRESENCE ON SVALBARD IS NOW OF VERY HIGH IMPORTANCE, NOT ONLY
AS CONCERNS SVALBARD, BUT IN REGARD TO THE ONGOING US.NORWEGIAN
RELATIONSHIP. AT EACH OF THE ANNUAL CONSULTATIONS SINCE 1975,
WE HAVE GIVEN THE GON REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE NANSEN PROJECT
WAS A REAL POSSIBILITY. WHILE FRYDENLUND RIGHTLY PLACES OUR
ASSURANCES OF SUPPORT (REFTEL) ABOVE SUCH RELATED MATTERS
AS THE NANSEN DRIFT PROJECT, THE US INABILITY TO DELIVER
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ON NANSEN POSES AN UNDESIRABLE CONTRAST TO OUR ASSURANCES.

4. WHEN I WAS IN WASHINGTON IN EARLY MARCH, I LEFT A LIST
OF "OFF THE WALL" SUGGESTIONS FOR ALTERNATIVE PROJECTS ON
SVALBARD. I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF THAT MEMORANDUM COULD BE
RE-READ WITH A VIEW TO FINDING A FEASIBLE US PROJECT FOR
SVALBARD. I HOPE THAT SOME OFFICE IN THE DEPARTMENT COULD O

EXPLORATORY WORK WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES SUCH AS
NIH, ENERGY, THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (THE GON HAS NATIONAL
PARKS ON SVALBARD) NOAA, NASA, ETC.

5. I BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD, BY THE TIME OF THIS YEAR'S FALL CONSULTA

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TIONS, HAVE IN HAND SOME PROJECT OR PROPOSED PROJECT WITH WHICH
TO FILL THE VOID LEFT BY NANSEN. THE EXPECTATIONS FOR THE DRIFT
STATION WERE VERY HIGH. WHILE THE INITIAL DISAPPOINTMENT
HAS BEEN MUTED THERE IS, NONETHELESS, A GENUINE NEED FOR A TANGIBLE
EVIDENCE OF US SUPPORT FOR NORWAY ON SVALBARD.

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